



**Zeke's Island Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 30, 2015 – 10 am
Fort Fisher Recreation Area Education Room**

Attendance

<u>LAC Partner Organization Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
Division of Archives and History, Nathan Henry	No
Division of Parks and Recreation – FFRA, Jeff Owen	Yes
NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, Renee Weeks	Yes
<u>Community Members</u>	
Captain John Carty	No
Dr. Anthony Snider	Yes
<u>Others Present</u>	
Hope Sutton, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Stewardship Coordinator/Southern Sites Manager	
Rebecca Ellin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Reserve Manager	
Abi DelGiorno, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Research & Stewardship specialist	

NCNERR Management Plan Update

Prior to the meeting, members received a copy of the draft strategic plan portion of the management plan for review, as part of the NCNERR 2016-2021 management plan update process. Rebecca Ellin presented a summary of the input that was received through the stakeholder engagement process during the preceding fall; this input informed the strategic plan and will also be used to inform the content of program chapters which will provide more detailed information regarding the work the Reserve does and how it relates to the sites. She also provided an overview of the process used to develop the draft strategic plan and reviewed the format and content of the plan. Rebecca facilitated a group discussion with the Local Advisory Committee members. During the discussion, members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on each element of the strategic plan: the vision and mission, the goals and objectives associated with the administrative, research, education and stewardship aspects of the Reserve's work, and the newly developed topical areas. Rebecca provided additional information regarding the next steps in the management plan update

process which include submitting the strategic plan for NOAA review and development of the content of the chapters associated with each of the program areas mentioned above. Members will be provided with the complete draft management plan during the summer and asked to submit written comments.

Site Update Report Review

- Research activities continue at the site with no significant issues. The telemetry at the basin site is not functioning. Research staff are working to troubleshoot and correct this. Abi DelGiorno is working with Byron Toothman to conduct a research project related to the non-native *Gracilaria* present at the site. The primary goal is to quantify biomass in different habitat areas.
- The Reserve is considering installing a nature trail or kayak trail at the site. This may involve utilizing informational content under development for a new nature trail at the Masonboro Island Reserve or working with students as part of a UNCW Environmental Studies course. The project would not require any significant construction or vegetation clearing. The timeline for the project has not been established.

New Business

- None

Roundtable Discussion

- Mr. Owen expressed an interest in having Parks and Reserve staff meet to discuss research opportunities.

Public Comments

- None

Action Items

- Reserve staff will provide the draft management plan to committee members during the summer.
- Reserve staff will contact committee members in the fall to establish a date for the fall meeting.
- Reserve staff will convene a meeting between Reserve staff and Parks staff to discuss potential collaborative research opportunities at the site.